

# Children's Chatter

Picatinny Arsenal Child Development Center

Spring 2007

## Director's Corner

Volume 1, Issue 3

Dear Parents,

Another year is just about at its end. During this past year, we have seen your children grow, physically, socially and academically, and we have made new friends, as new children and parents were welcomed into the CDC family. We have jumped some hurdles and landed on our feet. We do, however, have one more hurdle to jump and, hopefully, we will land on our feet again. National Accreditation! The fifteen day window for the unannounced, assessment visit is June 8-28. One NAEYC Assessor will visit the CDC one day during that time frame, to observe staff/child interactions, examine our processes and records, and look at programming and the CDC facility.

The staff has been working very hard since last Fall, trying to find examples of how the Picatinny CDC meets the required criteria, which number in the hundreds. They have spent many hours accumulating sources of evidence and planning appropriate activities and a myriad of other things. I am indebted to them for their loyalty and dedication to the CDC and the children.

You all are also a major part of this process. Without your help and contributions, we could not be successful. I offer you also my thanks for all you do for the children of Picatinny and the CDC. Some of you may have one more contribution to make to the accreditation process. Don't be surprised if some time during the assessment day you receive a phone call asking for your opinions.

Many thanks to all who contributed time, effort and flowers to make the outside of the CDC look so beautiful. You all did a great job! Now, if we can just remember to water the flowers to keep them alive, we'll be golden.

**Don't forget the Family Picnic, June 14, 1115-1215.** Hope for sun! Bring a blanket, towel, or chair. We'll be outside on the playgrounds.

**Pre-Kindergarten/Pre-School Recognition** activities are planned for June 21 at the School Age Services, Bldg. 3228 at 1430 hours. If you are a parent of a Pre-Kindergarten student or Pre-School student, please plan to spend this special time with your child. The program will not last long, but the memories will. Many good wishes and good luck to our Pre-Kindergarten children as they leave us to start their public school career.

Finally, Summer Camp activities will begin June 25. Field trips ( 6/12-Land of Make Believe; 7/12-Turtle Back Zoo) and fun in the sun! What could be better? Almost makes me want to be young again.

Have a great Summer. Stay healthy and safe!

Louise

Sincerely,  
Louise Hade  
Child Development Center Director

# News From the Infant/ Pretoddler I Class



Brian and Andy

Miss Debbie, Miss Mattie, Miss Silvia, and Miss Michelle

## Things we have done recently/ and things we are working on:

Some of the babies are working hard on learning how to crawl and walk while our bigger children are practicing sign language and talking.

## Things we are looking forward to:

Having more outside playtime and taking walks in the nice weather.

## Message to our parents:

Please take a look in your child's cubby to be sure they have proper clothing for the weather. Please remember to put sunscreen on your child each morning.

## Happy Birthday to:

Andy Uku— May 5, Miss Debbie— July 5th, Ryan Moran— July 21st



Playing with the cars and trucks

**Greetings to:** Miss Michelle and Miss Sarah here to help for the Summer



Music time is a busy time

## To sing at home:

### Beehive

Here's a beehive, but where are all the bees?  
Hidden away where nobody sees.  
Now they are coming out of the hive...  
One, two, three, four, five. Buzzzzzz.

# News From the Infant II Class

Miss Mara, Miss Laura, Miss Silvia, and Miss Michelle



Miss Mara had special helpers to plant- Rebekah, Matthew, Landon, and Lauren

**Things we have recently done/ and things we are working on:** We just finished our Mother's Day gifts for all of our wonderful Moms. We are working on crawling, walking, holding our bottles, and for our older friends, we are learning to drink from cups.

**Things we're looking forward to:** We are looking forward to enjoying the nice weather, going for walks, and setting up the pools for swimming. We are also looking forward to our annual Family Picnic in June and meeting new friends.

## Message to our parents:

Remember to sign in and out daily and to leave an emergency number where you can be reached. Please make sure your child has weather and size appropriate spare clothing . And please apply your child's sunscreen in the morning before school.



**Happy Birthday to:** Rebekah  
Mathew— June 5, Miss Mara— July 15,  
Sama Elhamouly— July 28

**Greetings to:** Miss Michelle and Miss Sarah—  
Welcome back!

**To sing at home:**



Lauren and Rebekah help rock Baby Olivia to sleep

## Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day,  
Over the hills and far away,  
Mother duck called, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!"  
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out one day...

(continue with 3, 2, 1)

Mother duck called, "quack, quack, quack, quack!"  
And all of her ducks came running back!



Reese, Sama, and Marie



## News From the Toddler I Class

Miss Kristina, Miss Angela, Miss Lily, and Miss Amber

**Things we have done recently/ and things we are working on:** We recently began learning many signs in Sign Language. We will continue to learn new ones and incorporate the old throughout our daily activities.

**Things we are looking forward to:** Summer! We can't wait to get outside and start our water play. We also can't wait for our Family Picnic, Fourth of July, and many other Summer celebrations.

**Message to our parents:** Just a reminder, most of our activities involve messy projects and art experiences. Please dress your child in clothes that you do not mind get dirty or soiled.



Planting our flowers



Riding the bikes outside

### Happy Birthday to:

Erik Garv— May 1, Justin Santos— June 4,  
Cody Leisner— June 10, Miss Kristina— June 18,  
Mackenzie Robinson— June 20, Gunner Holley— July 4

**Farewell To:** Miss Chary— We'll see you when we get to Preschool!

**Greetings To:** Welcome back Miss Angela, and welcome Miss Amber

### To Sing at Home

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them,  
Give a little clap, clap, clap.

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them,  
Put them on your lap, lap, lap.

Creep them, creep them,  
Slowly creep them  
Right up to your chin  
Open wide your little mouth,  
But do not let them in.



Ellie and Troy— Is it the Prom?

## News From the Toddler II Class



Toddler II planted their flowers

Miss Ann, Miss Stephanie, Miss Lily, and Miss Amber

**Things we have done recently/ and things we are working on:** We were very busy reading our books for the Book-It Program in March and April. For the Month of the Young Child in April we had special activities: the Egg Hunt, Games/Carnival Week, Wacky Week, and a Science Fair for Science Week. During the month of May, we worked on our Mother's Day gifts. In June we will be having our annual Family Picnic on June 14th and working on our Father's Day presents.

**Things we are looking forward to:** We look forward to our Summer Camp program. We will be having fun with water play— pools, sprinklers, and water tables. We will also bring all of our activities outside— music, art, stories, flannel board stories, sidewalk chalk and bubble fun.

**Message to our parents:** Please make sure to sign your child in and out everyday. Please label all items that belong to your child. Please check your child's cubby and make sure your child has extra clothes.

**Happy Birthday to:** Gabriella Moraga— June 27, Sidney Strickland— July 23

**Greetings to:** We would like to welcome Miss Angela back to Toddler Land. We would like to welcome our new teacher aid, Miss Amber.



Nathan, Jacey, and Erik

**Farewell to:** Miss Annette and Miss Chary, we miss you! A special goodbye to Elyssia and Keric Brown. Good luck and best wishes to the Brown Family in Fort Belvoir!



Christopher and Sidney

**To sing at home:**

**What Color Socks are you Wearing?**

(Child's name) is wearing (blue) socks, blue socks, blue socks, \_\_\_\_\_ is wearing blue socks all day long!

\* repeat song with each child's name and the color sock s/he is wearing.



## News From the Preschool I Class

Miss Annette, Miss Chary, Miss Kris, and Miss Sarah

**Things we have recently done/ and things we are working on:** We just completed going over the letters in the alphabet. I would like to thank all who participated with the Month of the Child activities— all of the children had a great time!

### **Things we're looking forward to:**

The end of the year Recognition Ceremony is approaching and we will be developing a program with the children for that special day. Please save the date— June 21st. Summer Camp is also around the corner with lots of fun activities planned, please keep your eyes open for special notes regarding field trips.



Tommy, Daniel, and Jake make their 3-D art and work with wood



Preschool's flower box

### **Message to our parents:**

Warm weather is here! Hurray!! Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing in his or her cubby for emergency use. Sunscreen should be applied in the morning by parents at home and staff will reapply it in the afternoon.

### **Happy Birthday to:**

Miss Chary— May 9, Stephen Osborn— 5/11, Lauren Paolucci— 5/13, Miss Kris- 7/11, Daniel Wask— 7/22

**Greetings to:** Miss Annette and Miss Chary who found their way back to Preschool

**Farewell to:** Miss Angela who moved back to the Toddler Room and to Miss Sandy who moved on— Good Luck to both!

### **To Sing at Home:**

Fire truck! Fire truck! I want to ride on my fire truck! (repeat)  
I want to sleep in the fire station.  
Wake me up when the fire bell rings.  
I'm going to put on my hat, put on my coat, put on my boots.  
I'm going to slide down the pole, WHEEE!  
Then I'm going to get into my.... Fire truck! Fire truck!  
I want to ride on a fire truck!  
I have a hook and ladder, a hook and ladder.  
I climb that ladder, and I hold on tight. I'm gonna get out the hose, and I'm gonna shoot that water, shoot that water, from the hose on my... Fire truck! Fire truck!  
I want to ride on a fire truck!



Dorian, Andrew, Noor, and Jackson

## News From the Pre-K Class

Miss Debbie, Miss Valerie, Miss Jaime, and Miss Shelley



Pre K plants their flowers with Miss Debbie

**Things we have recently done/ things we are working on:** We recently celebrated Spring holidays, Month of the Young Child with fun activities all month including Wacky Week, Carnival Week, Science Week, and Spring Fling Week. We had fun at the Shrine Circus in early May.

**Things we're looking forward to:** We look forward to the end of another school year with many fun field trips. We hope to see all our parents at our Family Picnic and our Recognition Ceremony in June.

**Message to our parents:** Parents are reminded to apply sunscreen on their child in the morning before school. We will apply it in the afternoon. Check your child's spare clothing for appropriate seasonal clothes. Field trips are approaching quickly—volunteers are needed and are always welcomed.

**Happy Birthday to:** Matthew Zhang— May 18,  
Leah Postol— May 23, Miss Sarah— June 4, Miss Valerie— July 10. A special happy birthday to Miss Valerie's baby Patrick—born on April 11, 2007!



Spending time with Mr. Adam in the Technology Lab on the computers

**To sing at home:**

**Off to Kindergarten!**

Hi ho, hi ho! It's off to Kindergarten we go,  
We learned our ABC's and more,  
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho!  
We can't learn anymore,  
Our teacher taught us all we know,  
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho!  
They're going to miss us so,  
So let's stand up and wave good bye,  
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho, hi ho!



Before the butterflies flew away, one visited with Max

## 10 Guidelines for Living Cooperatively with Children

Adapted from NC ABCD Project

1. **"Catch 'em being good."** The single most important rule in living with a child is to work very hard to praise or attend to the child when he is being appropriate. Being appropriate includes everything (depending on the parents personal preference) from playing quietly with siblings to doing home-work, to being a good sport.
2. **Let them help you** The second most important rule is to let your children help you with everyday activities. Most children enjoy helping their parents and can learn a great deal while doing so. The "helping" might just consist of simulated "work", but will boost your child's self esteem tremendously!
3. **Monitor your children.** When your child is playing quietly - catch him being good! Don't think that you don't want to disturb him. Check on your child frequently (at first, every 10 minutes or so; then gradually decrease your monitoring to every 30 minutes or so) so you can then give him lots of feedback and positive praise.
4. **Home routines and responsibilities should (within reason) be orderly and predictable.** Don't let toddlers decide their own timetables. You should decide on a reasonable routines, like bedtime, and stick to it. Be consistent and let your children know what you expect. Keeping to a routine is easier to enforce.
5. **Discipline and enforcement of discipline should be as matter of fact as possible.** When a child breaks a rule, the consequence should be consistent and immediate. Calmly state what behavior is unacceptable, and what is going to happen. ("We are not allowed to hit each other in this house, you need to ...") For a younger child, try placing him in his crib until he is quiet for five or ten seconds: then go in and pick him up. Older children can generally sit in time out for one minute times their age.
6. **Lectures belong in lecture halls; not in homes.** Do **not** lecture your children - not even under the guise of reasoning with them. Threats and nagging are useless in dealing with children. In fact, threats make children worse, not better. Tell children what you want to happen instead of what's going to happen if they don't. For example, instead of starting with a threat, "If you don't pick up your toys, you can't play with them tomorrow", try "I want to make sure your toys don't get broken, let's put them away so we can play with them tomorrow". The second statement is more likely to encourage cooperation because it makes sense to the child.
7. **Show sympathy when you discipline.** When a child has to miss a movie, a trip to McDonald's or an opportunity to play a game with a friend because he hasn't been behaving, you should be sympathetic with him, but don't give in. Make sure that this sympathy doesn't last over a minute and use it to help teach the lesson.
8. **Prompting and modeling, or imitating.** Children learn by what they see, and hear you and others do. If your child breaks one of the house rules and you handle the whole issue "matter-of-factly," then your child will learn that problems can be handled "matter-of-factly." If you yell when you are mad, you can probably expect your children to follow that example. Show your children that you can handle problem situations without losing your cool.
9. **Parents are teachers.** Whether you program it or not, whether you intend it or not, you teach your children through your every interaction with them. If you only pick them up when they are crying, you teach them to cry more often. With younger children, in particular, what you do is much more important than what you say.
10. **Get help or support if needed.** We all need to realize that sometimes we need help or advice. Know when you need support if you are getting frustrated or don't know what to do. Being the best parents we can be means being proactive. Seek advice from a friend, a relative, your child's teacher or daycare center, or your child's doctor. Look up information about parenting classes or workshops. And know that almost all parents go through the same issues at one time or another.